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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, May 6, 2022, at 10 a.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2022

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray. O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, remind our lawmakers that we can accomplish little without Your mercy and grace. Give them the wisdom to trust Your power and might in their every endeavor, as You inspire them to live worthy of Your faithfulness.

Lord, we all borrow our daily heartbeats from You, so give us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference. And Lord, continue to strengthen the Ukrainian people.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 4, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. LUJÁN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the week before last, it was my honor to sit down with a number of law enforcement officials in my hometown of Lou-

isville, but I wish we could have met under happier circumstances.

Our city is contending with a tragic and record-setting jump in crime. Last year, Louisville saw 188 homicides—the most in any year on record. In the last 2 years, carjackings have tripled, and deadly drugs are becoming so prevalent on our streets that Jefferson County saw 500 overdose deaths in 2021.

Unfortunately, the historic wave of crime that has swept my hometown is challenging communities all across America. The murder rates of at least a dozen other major cities set alltime records last year. Chicago saw its most carjackings in 20 years, and in the first quarter of 2022, New York's crime rate was already up—listen to this—44 percent.

Needless to say, this is a time for strong law enforcement. Studies show that fewer police and less active policing make crime worse and leave the most vulnerable communities particularly worse off.

But our Nation's police officers aren't just facing higher volumes of crime; they are facing more direct, personal risks to confront it. Last year, as overall homicide counts continued to climb past 2020's record total, killings of police officers saw a staggering 59-percent spike of their own: 73—73—men and women sworn to protect and serve their communities were killed in 2021 while trying to do exactly that, and, already, 2022 has seen more than 100 more officers shot in the line of duty.

The surge in anti-police violence that boiled over in the summer of 2020 has taken its toll on the men and women of law enforcement. An exhaustive report

• This “buller” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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compiled by the city of Louisville last year found that morale—morale—among our officers is alarmingly low. A full 75 percent would leave for another police department. Not surprisingly, this has led to a severe staffing shortage on the force. Our police chief even took out billboard ads in Atlanta—in Atlanta—to try to recruit officers from other cities.

Now more than ever, we need to fund law enforcement, support police officers, and back the blue, but too many Democrats are apparently bent on doing just the opposite. The far left's call to defund the police has taken root at every level of government. Elected officials—sworn to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution—have chosen instead to amplify distrust of the men and women who work every day to enforce our laws.

So let's just consider whom the Biden administration has prioritized for confirmation to top jobs in the Justice Department.

There is the new U.S. attorney with a reputation for pushing to cancel entire categories of the Criminal Code and the assistant attorneys general who have advocated for efforts to "decrease police budgets" and "invest less in police."

There is the newly minted Supreme Court Justice who advocated in her last job that the COVID pandemic was an appropriate reason to let inmates out of jail right here in Washington.

Just last week, our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee considered a nominee to the circuit court with an unapologetic record of hostility toward law enforcement. Without any basis in fact, Nusrat Choudhury suggested that police murdering unarmed Black men "happens every day." Happens every day?

When our colleague the junior Senator from Louisiana called her out on it, the nominee tried to claim that she had only made the statement as an act of "rhetorical advocacy"—"rhetorical advocacy"—on behalf of a client.

Unsurprisingly, that answer hasn't done much to ease the concerns of America's law enforcement community. Major organizations representing officers—from the Sergeants Benevolent Association to the National Sheriffs' Association, to the Fraternal Order of Police—have voiced strong, strong opposition and called on President Biden to "take a stand against this dangerous and absurdly—absurdly—"divisive rhetoric."

Well, needless to say, the President and his administration need to do a lot more than that to prove to the men and women of law enforcement that they have their backs.

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Now, Mr. President, on another matter, last week, President Biden offered a particularly candid look at his view of education in America. In speaking at an awards ceremony for public school teachers, he remarked:

They're not somebody else's children. They're like yours when they're in the classroom.

Unfortunately, this wasn't a mistake. It was actually a rather accurate summary of the increasingly radical way he and his party think of children in America.

When it comes to the respective roles of parents and teachers, Democrats have used the past 2 years of the pandemic disruptions to show their true colors. They have shoveled money into woke training, like the North Carolina program to help preschool teachers "deconstruct whiteness"—"deconstruct whiteness." They have torn up time-tested procedures as in one California district's move to institute an equity lottery for admissions. Last fall, the former chair of the Democratic National Committee ran a gubernatorial campaign, saying:

I don't think parents should be telling schools what they should teach. Suffice it to say, parents in Virginia saw things differently.

Across America, parents have rejected the radical liberal campaign to make education a "one size fits all government knows best" proposition. From coast to coast—even in deep-blue bastions like San Francisco—they have sent rogue local administrators packing and asserted their rights and responsibilities as the first and most important teachers of their children.

Yesterday, Senate Republicans made clear once again that we stand with the parents of America. A bipartisan majority adopted Senator THUNE's resolution of disapproval on one of the Biden administration's most egregious violations of parents' rights and kids' well-being.

Masking children as young as 2 in Head Start Programs across the country, including outside on the playground—including outside on the playground—flies in the face of what even the World Health Organization considers settled science. And it has seriously damaged parents' confidence in the systems to which they entrust their children for hours every day.

So I was proud to join a majority of my colleagues last night to express the Senate's opposition to this unconscionable policy. Ah, but make no mistake: This is not the last we will hear about the far left's efforts to grab more control over how America raises its kids.

As we speak, Senate Democrats are trying to resurrect portions of the failed reckless taxing-and-spending spree they spent most of last year trying to ram through on party lines. That proposal includes the Toddler Takeover that would stick American families with dramatically higher costs and dramatically less choice in the market for childcare.

More redtape for independent providers, special subsidies for bureaucracies' preferred one-size-fits-all systems, outright hostility toward the faith-based options that are preferred by a majority of families who use out-

side-the-home childcare, and nothing—nothing at all—for families who choose to have a full-time parent or another family member look after their kids; just the latest example of a massive overreach the American people never asked for.

The Biden administration is having a hard enough time with basic governing responsibilities like national security, energy independence, and controlling inflation. American families, and especially children, will be a whole lot better off the sooner the Democrats stop looking for even more ways to fail them.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I have taken this time to talk about National Small Business Week, but because of the events of the last 48 hours, I need to comment on the Justice Alito draft opinion that, if it were adopted by the Supreme Court, would overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

I find this draft opinion to be outrageous. It puts the health, well-being, and constitutional rights of women across the Nation in great jeopardy, particularly those low-income women.

Thirty-six million women of reproductive age would be at risk if the Alito opinion became the ruling of the Supreme Court.

We look to our courts to protect and expand our constitutional protections, not to contract and weaken the constitutional protections, reversing nearly 50 years of legal precedent of *Roe v. Wade*.

What we need to do is to make sure that this body does everything we can to protect women's rights and to protect their healthcare right to make their own decision.

I am pleased that 16 States, including the District of Columbia, have taken action to protect women's rights, including my own State of Maryland, but we need to do more. We need to pass the Women's Health Protection Act. I am a cosponsor of that—proud to be a cosponsor of it—which would codify *Roe v. Wade* to protect reproductive rights for women. I hope we will have the opportunity to do that. I think we all recognize that we have a responsibility to act before the Supreme Court makes its ruling that could jeopardize the constitutional rights.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Now, Mr. President, I do want to speak about National Small Business Week, which is this week, May 1 through 7.

I have the honor of chairing the Small Business and Entrepreneurship